

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section on page 4, lines 7-21, with the following amended section:

--One object of the present invention is to provide an image communication apparatus capable of preventing the aforesaid useless use of ~~not-cheaped~~ expensive BJ ink owing to the innocent behavior of an infant or the like, and capable of preventing the disturbance of the rhythm of a home life by a cat or the like.

For the achievement of the foregoing object, the present invention provides an image communication apparatus including a printing unit for printing an image by scanning a printing head discharging ink onto the recording medium, and an operation panel having operation keys for making the image communication apparatus perform a cleaning operation of the printing head by being operated. The apparatus includes: (1) cleaning means for performing a cleaning operation of the printing head by discharging ink according to an input by a key operation; (2) a key lock switch for prohibiting an input by operation of at least one of the operation keys, wherein it is prohibited to perform a cleaning operation of the print head, under the condition that the input by the key operation is prohibited by the key lock switch; (3) reset judging means for judging whether prohibition of the input by the key lock switch is reset or not; (4) timing means; (5) appointed time information storing means for storing appointed time information; and (6) appointed time judging means for judging whether an appointed time measured by the timing means has passed or not. When the appointed time judging means judges that the appointed time has passed under the condition that the input by the key operation

is prohibited by the key lock switch, the reset judging means judges that the prohibition of the input by the key lock switch is reset and the input by the key operation is allowed so that the cleaning means can perform a cleaning operation of the printing head, including operation
~~instructing means for instructing a reading operation, an image processing operation, an image recording operation, a calling operation and a communication operation; and operation instruction disabling means for disabling the instruction of each of the operation by the operation instructing means.--~~